This article is the first of a series of SDMPH member profiles. Our aim is to help our members get to know each other better and to highlight the latest work and interests of the article’s subject.

Member Profile

Cheryl Schmidt

Beach balls and NERF balls. Outdoor fun, yes. But they are also significant items in the disaster medicine and public health career of Cheryl K. Schmidt, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN. After spending 22 years in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, Dr. Schmidt turned her attention to the Red Cross and the critical task of teaching CPR. A shortage of mannequins to use in her teaching sparked her resourcefulness – thus she gave instruction using beach balls to mimic adults. Naturally the NERF balls were substitute children. And they worked.
Dr. Schmidt’s active involvement in public health and disaster medicine – including her service on the Board of Directors of the Society for Disaster Medicine and Public Health – is a long and storied one. “I’m hooked on disaster medicine,” she says.

As a volunteer nurse in the American Red Cross since 1974, she has also taught disaster preparedness education to health care professionals, nursing students, and community members throughout the United States.

In addition, she conducted a national survey exploring levels of preparedness, which revealed a lack of readiness, leading to increased emphasis on this topic at the National Student Nurses’ Association. She co-authored the American Red Cross “Disaster Health and Sheltering” course, which has prepared more than 20,000 students throughout the U.S. to serve as volunteers in Red Cross disaster shelters. Dr. Schmidt has received several awards related to her Red Cross work, including a regional Ann Magnussen Award, a Chapter-level Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Honor Award, and the 2011 International Committee of the Red Cross Florence Nightingale Medal.

Her other work in the field includes serving on the Expert Panel for the American Academy of Nursing’s Have You Ever Served Campaign, designed to educate healthcare providers and veterans about the health risks related to military service. She recently learned she will be receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing on September 21, 2024, while celebrating the 25th anniversary of her PhD in Nursing graduation.

Today, she is a Clinical Professor at the Pre-licensure Program at the Arizona State University Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation in Phoenix, Ariz. She finds her membership and work with SDMPH extremely valuable and is particularly impressed by the society’s international reach. “(Being an SDMPH member) allows me to meet colleagues in the public health profession,” she says. “The Society has a big influence on the field.”
There is still time to register for the Inaugural Chulabhorn Royal Academy Disaster and Emergency Conference July 29-31 in Bangkok, Thailand. Among the event’s keynote speakers will be several SDMPH members. In addition, SDMPH Executive Director James J. James, MD, James J. James, MD, Dr. PH, MHA, will present "Integrative Strategies: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach" and participate in a panel discussion on "The Future of Disaster Resilience: The Global Perspectives." Other Scheduled presentations include:

- “Disaster Recovery” - Krzysztof Goniewicz, Professor at the Polish Air Force University
- “Challenges in Collaboration” – Lesley Gray, Associate Professor at University of Otago
- “Disaster Impact of Health: How can the aging society be resilient against disaster?” – Shinich Egawa, MD, Professor at Tohoku University

Other topics will include crisis communication and social media and digital surveillance for disaster mitigation.

Many of you may be aware that our publisher has experienced an unwelcome intrusion which has resulted in a delay in getting accepted manuscripts published. Cambridge has released the following statement:

**Technical disruption**

"Cambridge University Press & Assessment has experienced a cybersecurity incident.

We were able to respond to this incident quickly and took immediate action to contain it and limit its impact. As part of this action, we have had to take some of our systems offline as a precautionary measure and are working to restore these as quickly as possible.

Most customer-facing platforms remain live and there has been no impact on the current exam series.

We are also aware that a group has claimed that data related to our organisation has been published online, and we are working to verify this claim. We are continuing to investigate with the support of external experts and the relevant authorities, including the UK’s National Cyber Security Centre.

Our investigation into what happened remains ongoing and the experts we are working with have advised that it will take some time to complete owing to its complexity. We will provide further updates as soon as we can."


**Free Online Disaster and Psychiatry Course Now Available**

“Disaster and Preventive Psychiatry: Protecting Health and Fostering Community Resilience,” a free online course, walks participants through the fundamentals of
and interventions in disasters. It covers a variety of topics including: the basic concepts in disaster and preventive psychiatry, psychological and behavioral effects of disasters, risk and vulnerability to disasters, psychological first aid, risk and crisis communication, leadership consultation and preparedness for disasters.

**Upcoming Emergency Medicine Conferences**

**Climate Crossroads Summit 2024**  
July 16-17, 2024, Virtual  

**2nd International Conference on Emergency Medicine and Critical Care**  
August 22-23, 2024, Berlin  
[https://emergencymedicine.cmesociety.com/registration](https://emergencymedicine.cmesociety.com/registration)

**7th African Conference on Emergency Medicine (AfCEM)**  
November 6-8, 2024, Botswana  
[https://www.afcem24.org/](https://www.afcem24.org/)

**European Emergency Medicine Congress - EUSEM 2024**  
October 12-16, 2024, Copenhagen, Denmark  
[https://eusemcongress.org/](https://eusemcongress.org/)

**World Extreme Medicine Conference 2024**  
November 16-18, 2024, Edinburgh, Scotland  

**Medical Literature Resource**


**Keep Us in the Loop**

Please send items you believe would be of interest to SDMPH members for possible publication in SDMPH News. We welcome meeting announcements, new publications, job openings, and more. Please email your news items to elinore.tibbetts@sdmph.org.

**Reviewing Has Its Rewards**

As a thank-you to Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness (DMPHP) Journal peer reviewers, Cambridge University Press offers a 30% discount on all Cambridge books. Please contact alice.odonnell@sdmph.org if you have reviewed for DMPHP Journal and did not receive a code in your review acknowledgement email. If you are interested in becoming a DMPHP reviewer, please click [here](https://cambridge.org/).

**Become an SDMPH Member or Renew to Enjoy a Variety of Benefits**

The SDMPH welcomes new members and looks forward to a strong and enduring partnership. Members will participate in the creation of policies and programs that work toward global health security before, during, and after disasters.
work toward global health security before, during, and after disasters.

A benefit of membership is a free electronic subscription to Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness (DMPHP), the Society's official peer-reviewed journal advancing the science and practice of disaster medicine and public health. In addition, DMPHP journal authors who are SDMPH members are eligible for an article processing charge discount.

Member rates are available for educational programs that offer continuing education. Meetings are held annually.

Join or renew your membership today.

SDMPH Board of Directors

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